

Terceira
Edição

Foreign Comic Collector

Issue 3 / March 2014



Collector Spotlight

Liaton-9000 was an early adopter of the "set type" style of collecting foreign books



South Africa's Own...

Supercomix! A history of some of the coolest foreign books you probably have never heard of!

www.foreigncomiccollector.webs.com

Welcome to F.C.C.!



Greetings everyone! You were probably expecting another introduction from Matt (Define999) but this time around you get me. My name is Tim Bildhauser, also known as LSComics. I'm sure you remember me from the Collector Spotlight in issue #1 of FCC. Since then my collection has grown a bit (it never seems to stop) and Define999 asked me to come on board as Associate Editor for FCC which I gladly agreed to do. I hope you're enjoying the ride so far.

In the first couple issues of FCC you were introduced to a few of the guys out there that have caught the fever for collecting these oddball versions of American comic books that most people aren't even aware exist. I remember quite a few years back seeing a few foreign books at a convention in Chicago and completely dismissing them. Looking back now I wish I had paid them more attention. Live and learn.

The vast majority of comic collectors who get into the foreign aspect are unlikely to take it to the same extreme as some of us have, however, it's been an interesting experience these last four years digging up these hidden gems and I look forward to sharing some of the knowledge I've gathered with any of you who decide to jump into this end of the pool.

LSComics (Tim Bildhauser)
Associate Editor
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Mission Statement

The altruistic goal of attaining and sharing further knowledge and respect for foreign variants/editions and all variants within the comic collecting community. This should be love focused, informative, and most of all fun!

On the cover

A group shot of some South African Supercomix contained within George van der Riet's collection! Keys like Fantastic Four #1 and Spiderman #122 look absolutely amazing when publisher Republican Press gave them a new coat of Supercomix paint! If you are interested in learning more about books like these please visit George's site here at...

southafricancomicbooks.blogspot.com/

Featured in this issue:

- Supercomix! *South Africa's OWN....* pg 3
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- *The Limelight: Hector Banda's killer Spidey 300 set* pg12

Supercomix

presents

SUPERMAN



IF HE'S THE
WHO'S BEE'
US THO'
HE V

South Africa's OWN...

Supercomix! A History of Comic Book reprints in South Africa

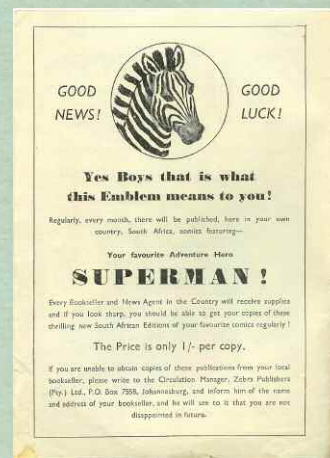
by George van der Riet

My father (Michael) thrilled to the Superman serials shown in cinemas in South Africa in the 1940s and 1950s. We have old 16mm films of him emulating the Man of Steel in his Superman costume at the time. Flash forward to 1979 when I was a youngster and thrilled to the spectacle of Christopher Reeve as Superman on the big screen! My father introduced me to the joy of comic books and collecting, and I had a similar Superman costume in 1979.

Throughout the 1940s American comic books were popular worldwide. They reached the shores of South Africa in small numbers. When the government changed in 1948 – they introduced censorship laws, which significantly reduced the availability of superhero comics. At the time all imported magazines would be scrutinised by the censors. In the early 1950s mainly Classics Illustrated and humour titles were sold in South Africa.

The first line of DC Comics reprints by Zebra Publications started in September 1954. Five titles were produced - each ran for only seven issues. The titles in English were: Action Comics, Superman and World's Finest Comics. The titles in Afrikaans were Mantelman (Batman) and Kongo Koot (Congo Bill). Colour covers, with black & white interior.

Zebra Publications Superman # 2 (1954)



Cover and house ad (in 1954 the publisher thought only boys would be interested in reading comic books!)

In 1959 Atlas Publications printed short runs of DC Comics' Action Comics, Adventure Comics and Detective Comics.

Atlas Publications



Action Comics # 1



Adventure Comics # 1

From 1959 to 1964 Mimosa Comics published a wide range of mainly DC Comics reprints and a small number of Dell and Gold Key reprints.

Mimosa Comics



Detective Comics # 1



Superman Giant # 4

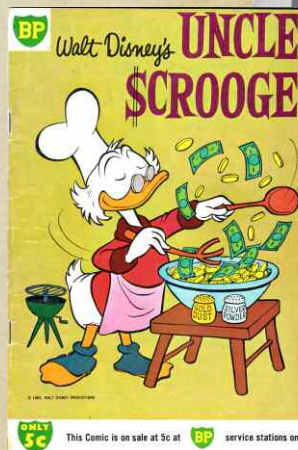
(translated into the Afrikaans language)

1964 saw the flood gates open and the South African market was flooded with American comic books again – so numerous DC, Marvel, Charlton, etc. titles were available. Of interest to collectors, is this gap we see in the availability of original American superhero comic books in South Africa between 1948 and 1964. To this day Golden Age comic books are still very rare in South Africa – as so few were on sale at newsstands.

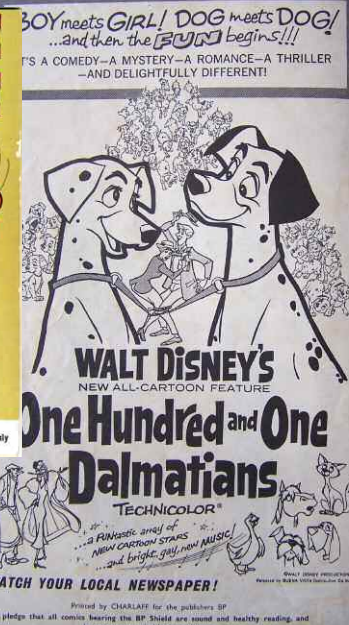
It was not until 1976 that comic book reprints restarted in South Africa.

1976 saw the first Public Television broadcasting in

In 1963 Mimosa also printed a small range of Gold Key Walt Disney Comics with the BP Service Station logo, for sale at BP Service (Gas) Stations.



BP Uncle Scrooge # 43



Inside Front Cover of 101 Dalmatians, showing the disclaimer that these comics were "sound and healthy reading, and in every way suitable for children"!

South Africa by the SABC (South African Broadcasting Corporation). Republican Press was a publisher based in Durban, South Africa. They published numerous popular magazines distributed nationally. They were the chief publisher of the popular "Photo Story Magazines" in South Africa. These are related to comic books, featuring photographs instead of drawings in panels, with word-balloons.

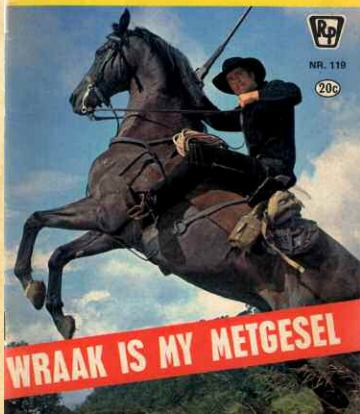
In 1976 Republican Press launched the first Supercomix reprint series, under the banner "SOUTH AFRICA'S OWN COMICS". Supercomix were the first to feature reprints of Marvel Comics in South Africa.

The first series of Supercomix reprints were: Marvel Comics' The Amazing Spider-man, The Mighty Thor, The Incredible Hulk, Fantastic Four, Iron Man, Millie the Model. Harvey Comics' Casper, Richie Rich, Wendy, Hot Stuff, Little Audrey, Baby Huey.

Each series ran for less than five issues.



Ruiter in SWART



Republican Press' Photo Story Magazine "Ruiter in Swart" # 119



Supercomix The Amazing Spider-Man # 1 (first series 1976)

In 1978 Republican Press responded to the popularity of the superhero films shown on the big screen in South Africa. Batman: The Movie (1966, Adam West), The Amazing Spider-Man (1977, Nicholas Hammond), The Incredible Hulk (1977, Lou Ferrigno) and Super-

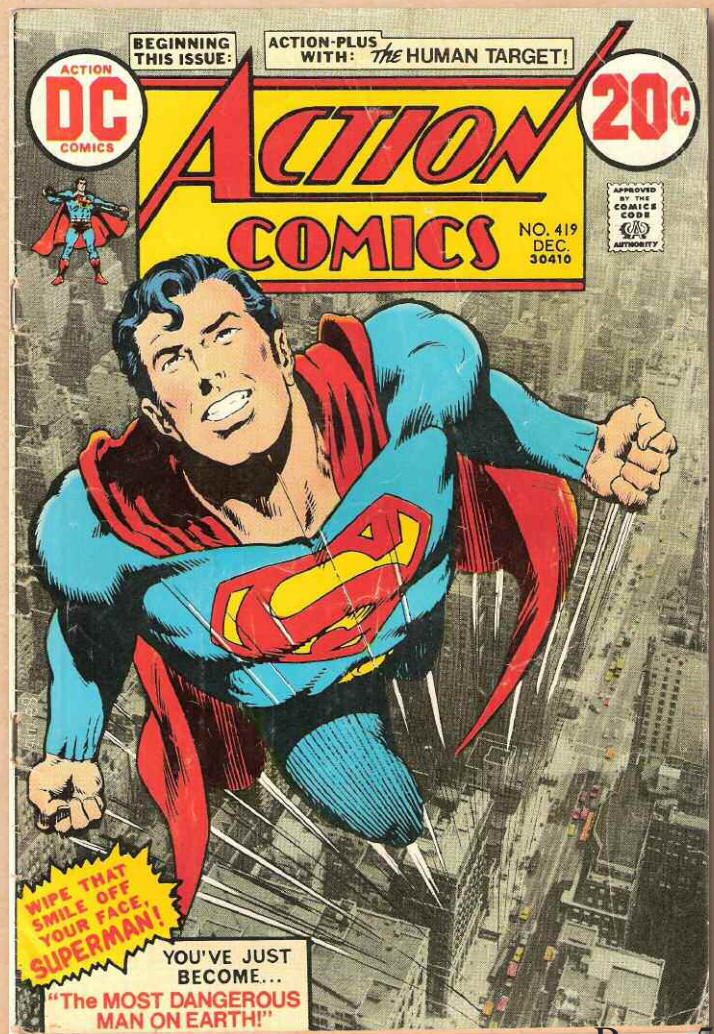
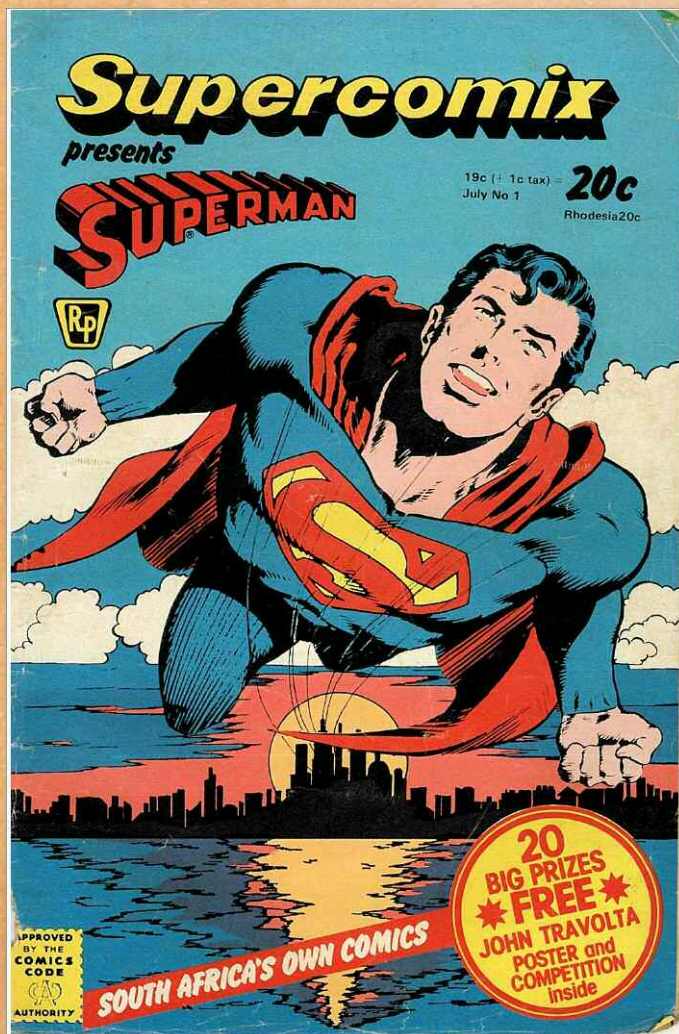
man The Movie (1978, Christopher Reeve) were all popular at the time. As a result they launched multiple new reprint series: DC Comics' Superman, with short runs of Superboy and Wonder Woman following a few years later. Marvel Comics' The Amazing Spider-Man, The Incredible Hulk, The Mighty Thor and Captain America.

Numerous Humour Titles were also reprinted: Charlton Comics' Blondie, Popeye. Harvey Comics' Richie Rich, Little Lotta. Dell Comics' Mighty Mouse. Gold Key Comics' Tom & Jerry, Pink Panther, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck.

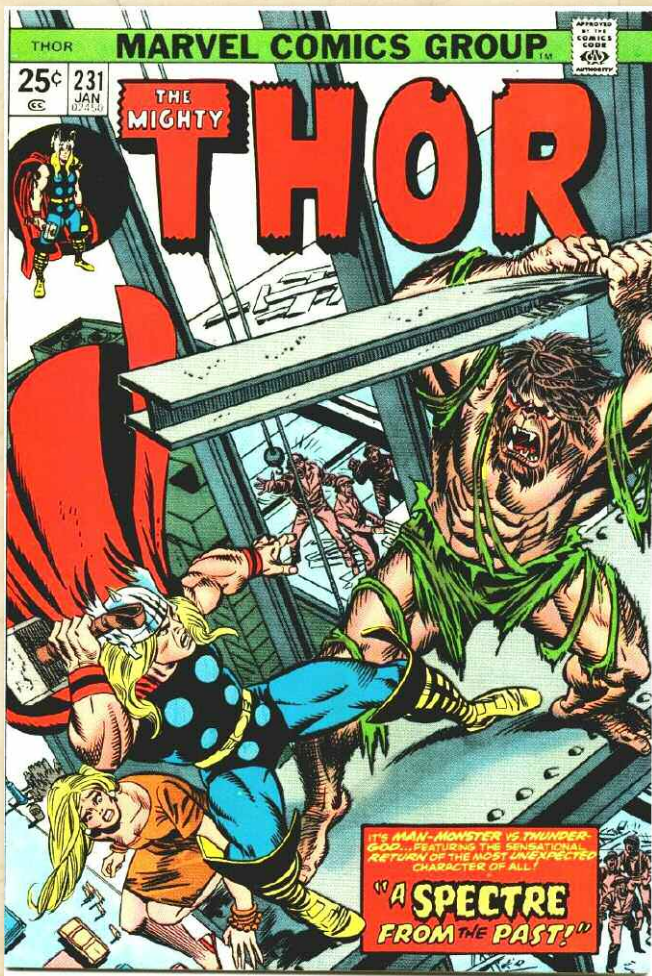
The glossy covers were re-coloured for Supercomix. My blog has numerous covers from this series, with the original American covers added for comparison.

An added incentive for kids to buy these comics was the pull-out glossy Pop-Star Poster. An old Republican Press insider related a story to me, where they used to take this opportunity to promote local rock bands from Durban in these posters, until their managers woke up ... and posters returned to featuring international stars!

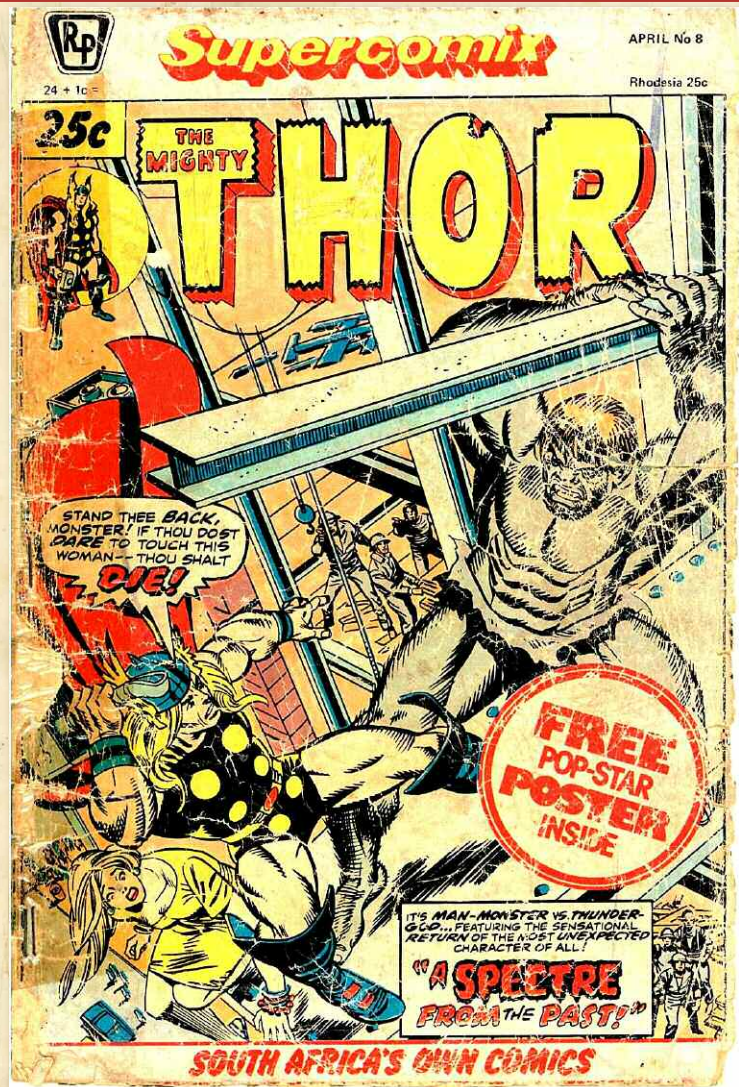
Neal Adams' iconic Superman image from Action Comics # 419 is given a new background for Supercomix Superman # 1 in 1978



Censoring the Man-Monster?

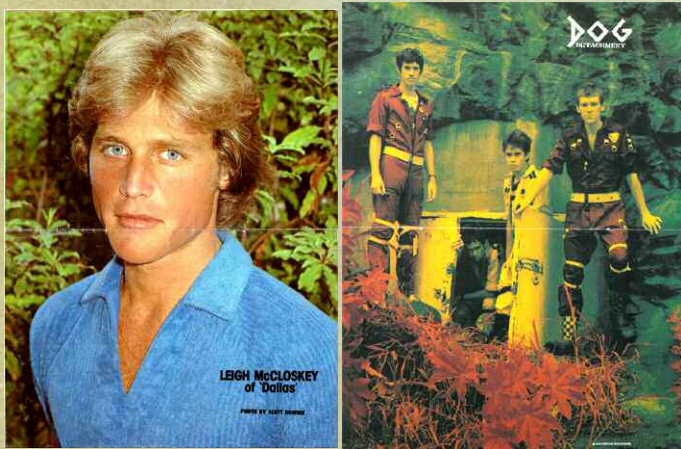


Original American cover



Interestingly there was still some censorship prevalent at the time – notice how Man-Monster is redrawn from the original cover of Marvel Comics' The Mighty Thor # 231 for Supercomix The Mighty Thor # 8

Pop Star poster inserts....



Pop-Star posters featuring Leigh McCloskey and local South African Band "Dog Detachment"

Supercomix were published from 1976 until 1984. This was a time in South Africa's Apartheid era, where people were divided along racial lines. Looking back at the Competition Prize Winners pages

from these comics – they show photos of children from all ethnic groups winning the prizes – which suggest that Supercomix were read by all children in South Africa at the time – transcending the political barriers of the era.

I started reading comic books around 1980-1981. At the time Supercomix were plentiful and easily available – so I read a wide variety of them, until I discovered that DC Comics' Batman was my favourite. I traded all my Supercomix for Batman Comic Books – and didn't buy another Supercomix for almost 30 years! From 1964 to 1995 – only one Batman reprint (see Americom below) was pub-



Quick Fact!

There are 15 known foreign variants of Vampi's classic Vampirella #1 and 7 known domestic versions!

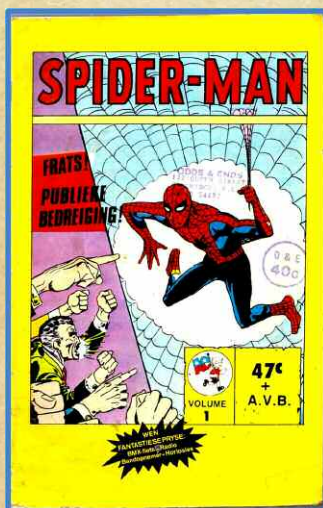
lished in South Africa – I enjoyed the old Mimosa reprints tremendously – as they were the some of the first Golden and Silver Age reprints I read as a youngster. My fellow collectors in the 1980s much preferred original American comic books, as opposed to the South African reprints.

Unlimited Comics



The Amazing Spider-Man # 1 and 5

Unlimited Comics were the next Marvel reprints in 1983. Short runs of Marvel Comics' Amazing Spider-Man, Spider-Woman and Incredible Hulk were reprinted.

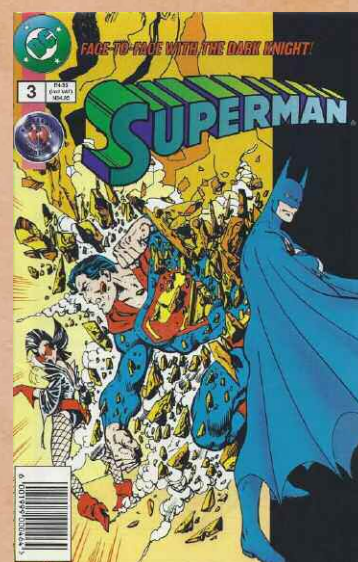
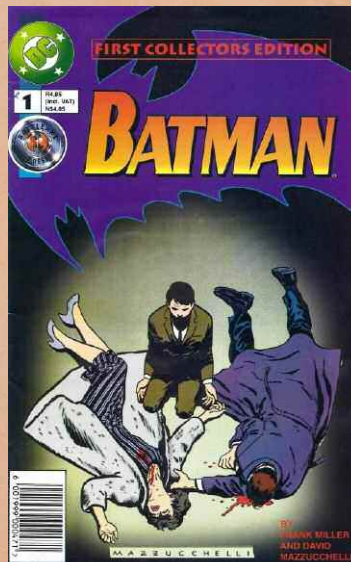


Americom Batman # 1 and Spider-Man # 1
(Afrikaans language edition)

Americom (AC) Comics produced reprints of Marvel and DC Comics in 1984. These were poor-quality reproductions – and despite producing comic books in 4 different South African languages – each series ran one issue!

Battleaxe Press responded to the worldwide 1990s Comics boom, by producing reprints of DC Comics, Image and 2000AD titles. Printed in 1995-1996, each series ran up to 10 issues.

Battleaxe Press



Battleaxe Batman # 1 and Superman # 3

Meteor Press



Prime #1



Spiderman #2

Meteor Press subsequently got the license for Marvel Comics and Malibu Comics reprints, also in 1995. Each series ran up to 12 issues.

Please visit my blog for further details on all these South African Comic Books and more!

<http://southafricancomicbooks.blogspot.com>
 Blogger: **George van der Riet**

South African Comic Books – established 2009 – an ever-expanding on-line archive of all South African comic books and related collectables. Submissions welcome!



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FCC PRESENTS...

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COLLECTOR
SPOTLIGHT
ON...

Liaton9000

In the beginning...

by Liaton-9000

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to formally introduce myself. My name is Liam Sturgess, otherwise known as Liaton9000 (or Liaton-9000) across a variety of social platforms. I am a Canada-based collector. I have been active on YouTube as a video blogger since 2007, and I actively produce original music and videos as my main claim to fame. I was introduced to comics through the form of Archie Digests when I was around nine years old, and after a short hiatus, I expanded my field of interest to include such mainstream comics as Marvel and DC, never limiting what I would take a glance at in a local comic shop or online browsing. However, I had decided to focus mostly on key issues such as first appearances, classic covers, etc. In 2010, I discovered the company known as CGC and I quickly began to integrate myself into the community (after a rough start, seeing as I was three years under the required age to participate).

Soon after joining, I noticed one collector in particular would occasionally post his newest acquisitions, most of which were the key issues I liked to admire and collect. However, these were different – they were not the classic American editions that I was familiar with. The books being posted were translated

into different languages (most of which I didn't recognize), with altered covers and a plethora of unique qualities to each one. The first batch of these books that I was exposed to were foreign editions of Marvel Super Heroes Secret Wars #8, the origin of the black Spider-Man costume which would eventually become Venom. Among the books was an Italian edition, French, Dutch, Danish, Mexican, Brazilian, Spanish and even a Swedish. It was a sight to see.



Australia
Avengers #1



Greece
X-men #94

I was inspired by this post and ones like it (all by Hector at the time), so I did a quick eBay search for "foreign editions" and I purchased my first ever foreign key book: the Editions Heritage issue of Amazing Spider-Man #238, the first appearance of the Hobgoblin.

Thrilled by this newfound niche of collecting, I sent the user a message introducing myself and asking for advice on how to begin such a collecting venture. The user replied, introducing himself as Hector, going by the name Chespirito. I will let Hector tell his own story if he so chooses, but he welcomed me with open arms and told me everything I could possibly need to know about the foreign comics world. Little did I know that between he and I, we were only still just scratching the surface...

Flashback several years: I found myself in a local

Xmen #266 key based type set



Brazil



French



Italy



Netherlands



Spain

A group shot of some of Liaton-9000 huge foreign collection



Countries or regions represented here: Spain, Italy, Greece, Mexico, UK, Germany, Hungary, French Canada, Norway.

comic shop called Tramps Books in Saskatoon, SK. I was browsing through the lines of comic boxes and I came across one of the books that I was searching for: Secret Wars #8. I purchased it and went on my merry way.

Back to 2010: I showed Hector my copy of Secret Wars #8 and noted the strange font that was used for the price marking. Instead of the usual 75-cent price, it had a \$1.00 price mark. After a few clicks on Google, we established that I had in my possession an uncommon Canadian Price Variant. Hector wasn't aware of its existence before this, and he promptly offered a very generous trade. I walked out of that deal with a low grade copy of Amazing Spider-Man #129 (the original US edition), a Mexican Secret Wars #8, and Italian editions of Amazing Spider-Man #129 and Amazing Spider-Man #252. I was now in possession of four foreign editions, and I was on top of the world.

And thus, the two of us began a long partnership in the hunt for foreign comics. We began comparing notes on a regular basis, always referring to each other when we had a question or concern, as well as letting each other know when a comic came up for sale that the other may be interested in. My initial focus was quite narrow, limited mainly to the main Spider-Man valuables: issues #129, 238, 252, 298, 300 (for the most part, these were the issues that Hector collected, and I was heavily influenced by that). However, once I started actively researching the series from which these books came, I discovered that there was an entire world of reprints that I

hadn't yet tapped – to my wonderment, there was a Polish Uncanny X-Men #282 (1st Bishop), a Dutch Amazing Spider-Man #289 (Ned Leeds revealed to be the Hobgoblin), and the Black Cat's first appearance (ASM #194) was reprinted across just under a dozen countries. The possibilities had achieved the status of limitless.



Spain
Hulk #181



Brazil
Spiderman #129

If you would like to
contact Liaton9000
email him at

sturg2008@hotmail.com



Liatons Amazing

SECRET WARS

8 set!

However, my truest passion remained with the Spider-Man comics, and the heart of this was the Secret Wars #8 collection. As mentioned earlier, this issue featured the origin of the black costume (which would eventually become Venom) and was released in December of 1984. What makes this issue stand out in particular in the foreign world is the fact that it was printed out of any of Spider-Man's regular series. The Secret Wars Limited Series ran for 12 issues and featured all of Marvel's most prominent characters of the time, making the series not even particular to Spider-Man. This was cause for great variation among the format used to release this issue in foreign countries; for example, several countries such as Spain and the Netherlands released their own versions of the limited series (with Spain running for twelve issues and then continuing into the Secret Wars II story arc, and the Netherlands running for nine issues) shortly after the American series. Other countries opted to simply include this Spidey-heavy issue in whichever core Spider-Man series they were publishing, usually a combination of Amazing, Spectacular and Web of. This was almost the case with France – their long running anthology series, Spidey, featured the Secret Wars story arc sandwiched between reprints of the X-Men and Power Pack. Norway published the issue within their Edderkoppen series, the equivalent of The Amazing Spider-Man. These varied publication formats complicate the discovery process of this issue, and it's likely that since this issue was printed out of the standard Spider-Man publication schedule, certain countries opted to simply not print it (which, to my knowledge, appears to be the case with Greece).



Secret Wars #8 UK



Secret Wars #8 Sweden

In terms of cover variations, the most noticeable change is that Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Norway and Sweden (as well Brazil for their second publication of the issue) changed the background color of the cover from the standard red-orange to a blue of varying shades, whereas France, Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK stuck with the classic. The reason behind this is unclear, but it's likely due to issues in formatting with other aspects of the cover such as price box, titles, etc (though I have no evidence of such decisions being made).

In terms of rarity for this issue, most of the reprints can be found with relative ease due to the popularity of the book. Brazilian and Mexican editions are rare to begin with, but when they appear on Mercado-Livre/MercadoLibre (basically, their eBay), the checkout process requires a South American postal address and payment is difficult to arrange. The Canadian Price Variants in general have picked up steam on eBay, being listed for (though rarely selling for) prices between \$60 and \$200 in a variety of grades. However, there are still many dealers (American and Canadian) who do not discriminate between the various Newsstand and Direct editions and will sell them at guide. Still, they're a rarity and require some hunting in comic bins at Canadian conventions and local stores. I was personally able to acquire the French, Dutch, and UK editions on eBay for rock bottom prices, but that was before foreigners started trickling into mainstream collecting – these are much better acquired through private dealers and collectors in their respective countries, since they don't appear to command a premium do-



Secret Wars #8 Spain



Secret Wars #8 Spain 2nd Print



Secret Wars #8 Brazil



Secret Wars #8 Netherlands



Secret Wars #8 Mexican



Secret Wars #8 Hungary



Secret Wars #8 France



Secret Wars #8 Canada

mestically. This is how I acquired the Hungarian, Norwegian, Spanish and Swedish copies.

It is also worth mentioning that Spain, in particular, has been known to release a 2nd print of certain issues (I have yet to figure out the formula used to decide which issues), and this includes Secret Wars #8. Though the market doesn't yet discriminate between the two, it's important as a collector to be able to make the distinction. First prints won't necessarily be labeled as such, but 2nd prints will have "2a EDICION" printed somewhere on the cover. Use the provided pictures for reference.

To conclude, my foreign adventures have taken me far and wide across the world (though mostly digitally) and I have had the pleasure of working with a wide base of international collectors that have helped me and educated me. I hope to continue forging the path for this up-and-coming niche, and I hope that I have persuaded at least one of you to join us in the hunt!

Happy collecting!
Liam Sturgess
Liaton-9000

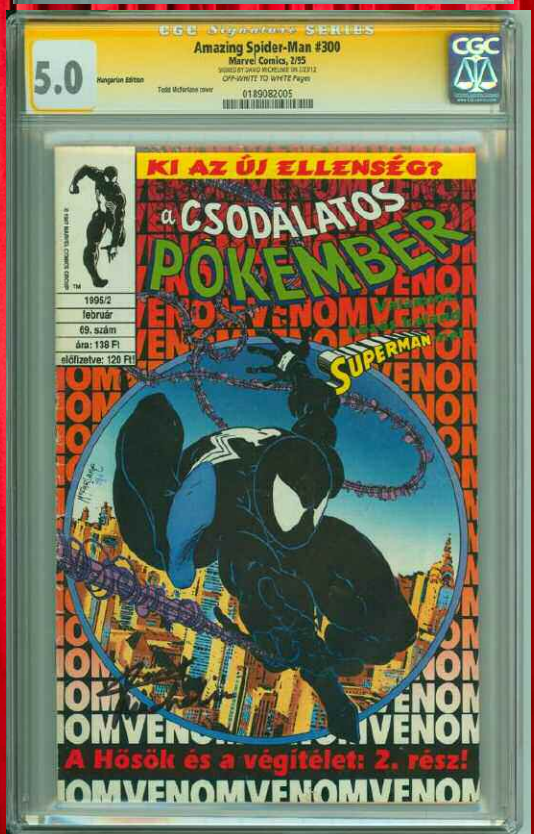
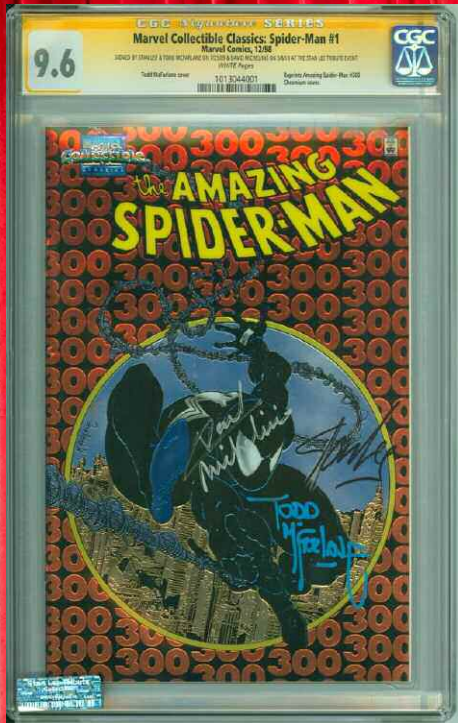


Secret Wars #8 Norway



The Limelight presents...

Chesperito's Spider-Man 300 set! Super iconic cover by McFarlane, Venom's coming out party, and if that wasn't enough, almost every book in this set is graded and signed by its creators or Stan the Man Lee! A truly stunning collecting achievement!



Countries from left to right and descending onto subsequent pages.... American, Finnish, American, Swedish, French, Hungarian, Greek, Norwegian, Philippino, Polish, Dutch, Italian, American Sketch, Page 12, Danish, Spanish, Japanese

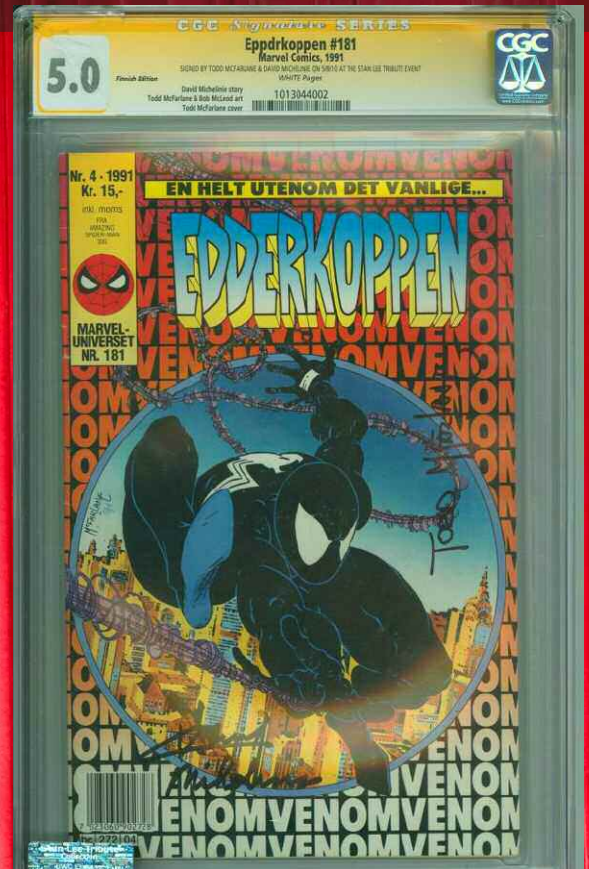
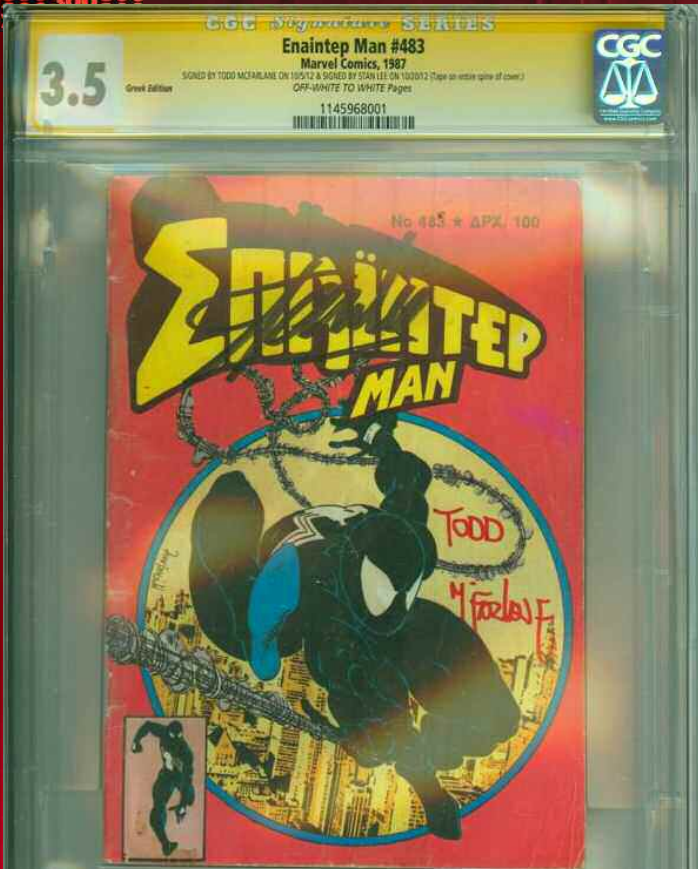


Amazing Spiderman Vol 1 #300 May, 1988

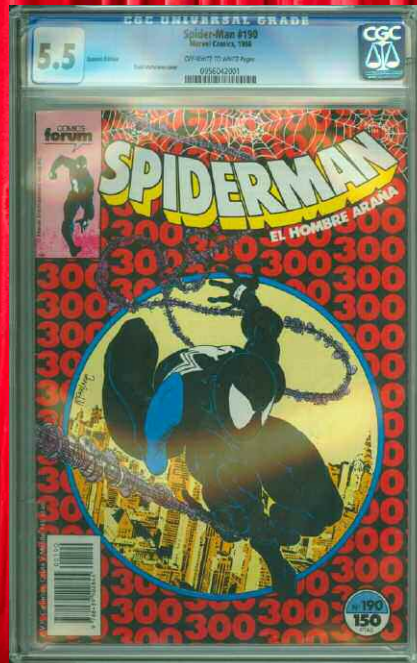
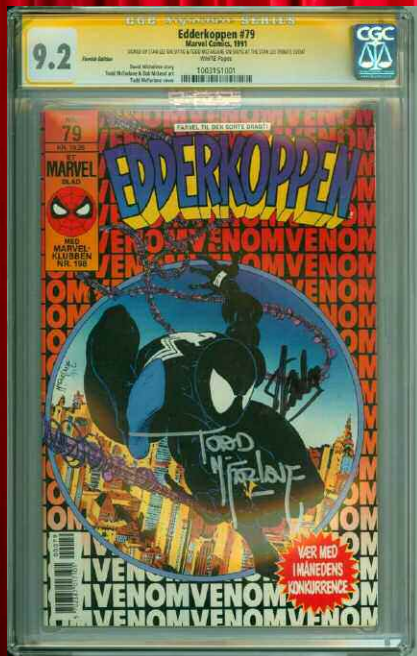
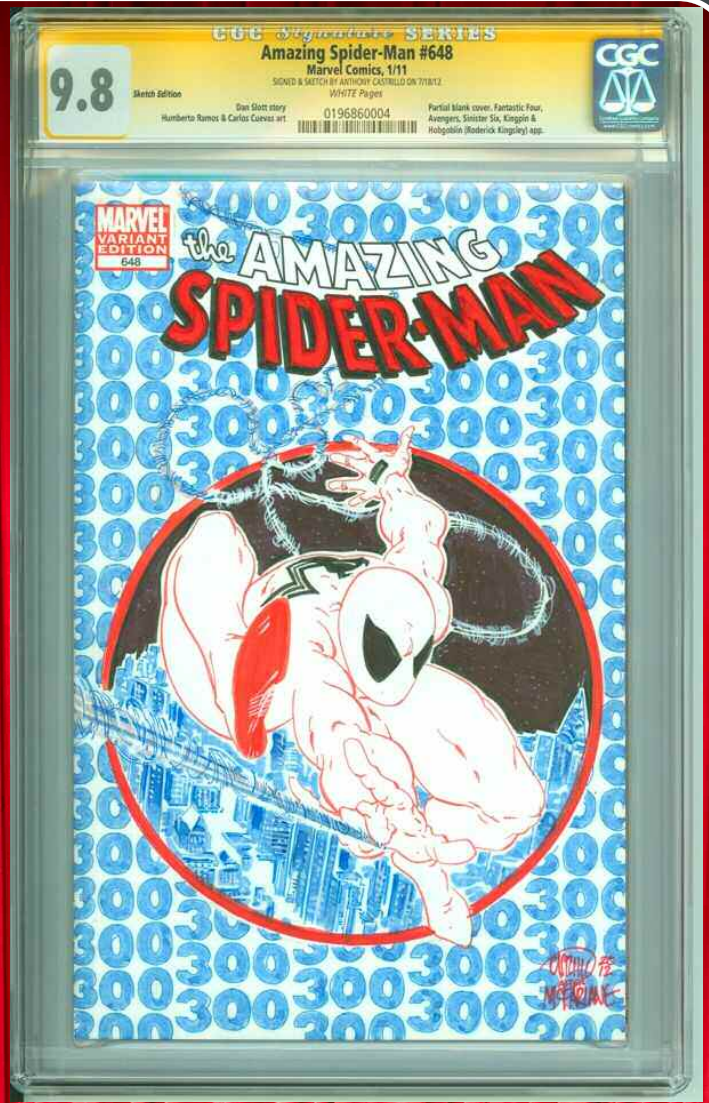
Venom

Cover artist: Todd McFarlane
 Writer: David Michelinie
 Penciler: Todd McFarlane
 Inker: Todd McFarlane

Colors: Bob Sharen
 Letters: Rick Parker



Why is this issue important? Not even discussing for a moment the iconic cover and artist, this issue is the first full appearance of Venom! The black symbiote that bonded with Eddie Brock, Venom soon became one of the most recognizable villains of the entire Marvel Universe. This issue also saw Peter return to his classic red and blue costume only returning to the black outfit on occasion. Some consider this book the biggest Spidey key of the Copper Age of comics.



I started the set by accident really... the first book I got was the Mexican edition, and then the Spanish edition, then when I discovered the Italian edition; then when I kept finding other issues, it became somewhat of an obsession getting the other issues, and finding the other issues. The most difficult issues to date have been the Japanese and the Filipino. Then getting them signed, well, that was a whole different adventure.

Hector Banda AKA Chesperito

Contributors this issue...



Define999

I tell ya what, what a wonderful issue this became! The complexity, coolness, and social study of the South African foreigners is mind-boggling.

How crazy that some SA variants were being used by young readers of different racial backgrounds to escape the Apartheid era politics that was tearing their country apart! On a cultural level the SA foreigners have such a wonderful and complex story to tell! This cultural aspect is one reason I have become obsessed with foreigners, the societal windows into places, that as an American, I cannot even fathom.

Passion! The passion of Liaton-9000 and Chesperito to collect foreigners in the "set style" and build some of the most amazing black suit Spidey sets I have ever seen is on display here for all to see. These guys are some of the early founding fathers of the "set style" of foreign comic collecting and it's an honor to share their accomplishments with all of you!

LSComics

Yep... I'm that LSComics... the crazy one with about 1,000 foreign editions, literally. Mostly Silver and Bronze Age with some Copper and Moderns. You can check them out at myforeigncomics.webs.com



Hector Banda

I am not a dedicated collector, but I dabble dabble with some foreign books, that tend to be looked at as "key" issues. I am a soldier, so I try to make time when I can to hunt books down.

George van der Riet

South African collector of comic books since the early 1980s. My main field of interest is Batman comic books. In the 1990s I wrote articles for legendary South African comics collector Ed Harmse's fanzine "Comics News/Comics Collector". I have a special interest in South African comic books and comic strips. I am the creator and author of <http://southafricancomicbooks.blogspot.com/> This is a ongoing collaborative project whose aim is to catalogue the history of comic book publishing in South Africa. "



Liaton9000

Liam has been collecting foreign comics for several years, focusing on the set-based style as seen in this issue. When not hunting books for his own stash, Liam enjoys contributing information and scans to the Grand Comics Database while slowly building up a small arsenal of cover scans.

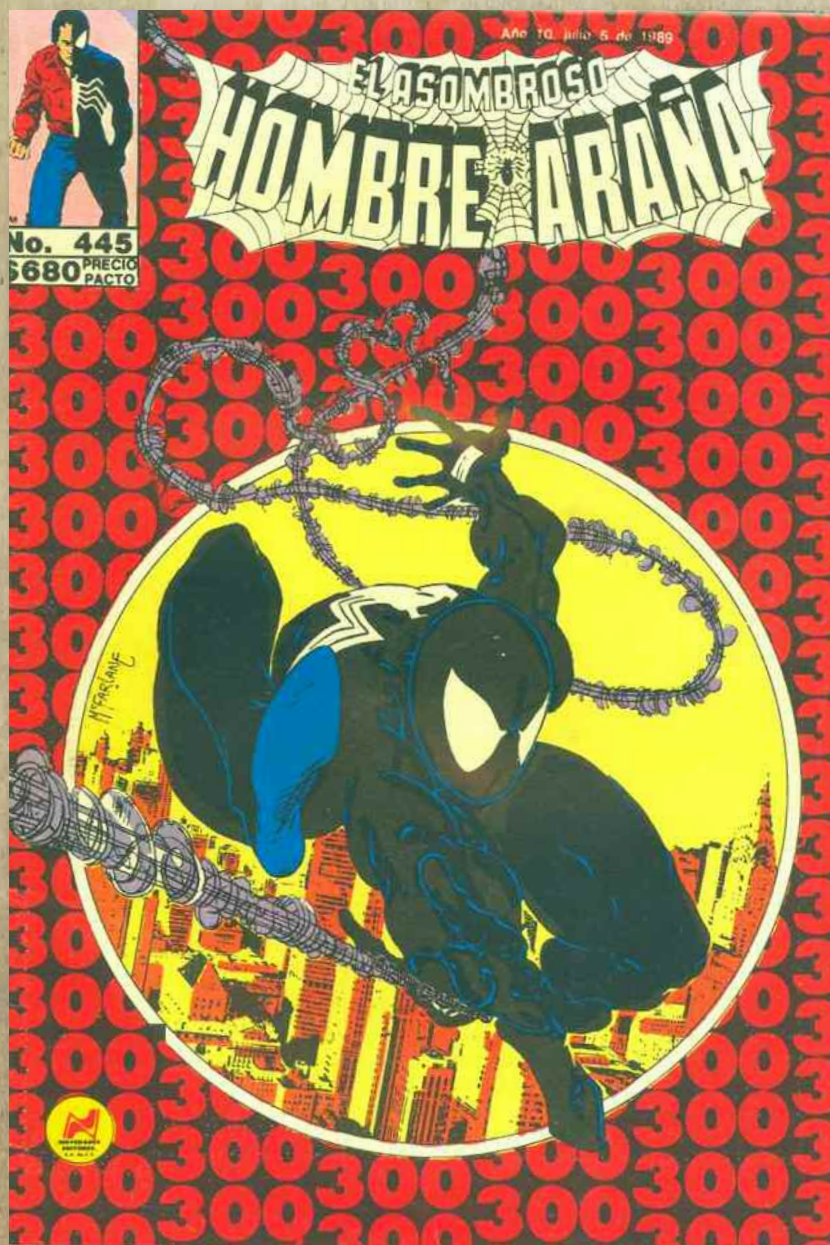
Do you have an idea for a foreign related story or information you would like to share?

Contact define999FCC@yahoo.com and share away.....

For our friends!

**Win a super rare
Spidey 300 Mexican foreign!**

**Go to our home page @
foreigncomiccollector.webs.com**



Join our raffle to win this super key foreign Spidey book from Mexico! Also since you are already hanging out, dont hesitate to see the largest foreign 300 set type collection in the world by checking it out in the Limelight Section of issue #3 of Foreign Comic Collector Magazine.



Also, dont forget Foreign Comic Collector Magazine will be at Indiana Comic Con the weekend of March 14-16th! Dont hesitate to drop in and say hi!

www.foreigncomiccollector.webs.com